The project which is being funded by the Department of Chemical and Petrochemicals is being implemented with the support of concerned research organizations namely Tocklai Experimental Station, Jorhat, Central Coffee Research Institute, Chikmagaloor, Indian Cardamom Research Institute (Spice Board) Myaldumpara, UPASI Tea Research Foundation, Coimbatore, Punjab State Council for Science and Technology, Chandigarh, Bidhan Chandra Krishi Viswavidyalaya, Kalyani, Institute of Pesticide Formulation Technology, Gurgaon, Industrial Toxicology Research Centre, Lucknow and the NGOs namely Neem Foundation, Nagpur, Vivekananda Institute of Biotechnology, Nimpith.

Regional Network of Pesticide for Asia and Pacific (RENPAP) is coordinating the implementation of the Project. The outlay for Phase II of the Neem project is Rs. 6.14 crores. The project period is 36 months.

The project also aims at stabilizing the product and carry out toxicological screening to establish a scientific basis for standardization of neem based pesticides so that the possibility of commercialization of the product by industry can be explored.

Import of fertilizers

1393. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether import of fertilizer becomes cheaper than setting up new fertilizer plants if the gas price as delivered is more than 5 dollar/(MMBTU); and

(b) if not, the prohibitive price of gas beyond which import becomes cheaper?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) The import price of urea varies in the international market, based on international demand supply scenario. It is estimated that new urea plants in the country will be competitive in the domestic market *vis-a-vis* imported urea, if the delivered price of gas is up to US$ 5 per MMBTU. The delivered price of gas beyond this price, may make the new investment in this sector un-competitive. However, the price of gas beyond which import becomes cheaper will depend upon prices of urea prevailing in the international market at any given point of time.

LNG based urea plants

1394. SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to switch over the existing FO/LSHS/ Naphtha based urea producing units in the country to natural gas/LNG based ones;

(b) if so, the details thereof, unit-wise;

(c) whether budgetary allocation has been made for necessary changeover of feedstock from FO to RLNG of the National Fertilizer Limited's plants at Bhatinda, Panipat and Nangal;

(d) if so, the schedule of completion of the job and the source and the price of RLNG; and

(e) the retention price of urea in these plants before and after changeover to LNG?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) and (b) Under the New Pricing Scheme Stage-III, it has been decided that all the non-gas based urea producing units in the country should convert to gas by the end of March, 2010. The existing non-gas based units are as below:—

Sl. No.	Naphtha based units
1.	MCFL – Mangalore
2.	MFL – Manali
3.	SFC – Kota
4.	SPIC – Tuticorin
5.	ZIL – Goa
Sl. No.	FO/LSHS based units
1.	GNFC – Bharuch
2.	NFL – Nangal
3.	NFL – Bhatinda
4.	NFL – Panipat

(c) M/s NFL has proposed the necessary budgetary allocation for conversion of the FO based plants to RLNG during the Eleventh Plan period. A new Head of Account has also been created for capital assistance towards conversion of FO/LSHS to gas under the plan scheme of Department of Fertilizers with a token provision of Rs. 5 crores in the annual plan 2007-08.

(d) The naphtha based units have informed that they are in constant touch with gas suppliers for sourcing of gas and as soon as the feed stock is tied up, the conversion process will be started and completed before March, 2010. The FO/LSHS based units have informed that the process of Techno-Economic Feasible Report (TEFR) has been initiated and the conversion is expected to be completed by March, 2010.

(e) The existing retention provisional price (NPS-II) of 2nd Quarter 2006-07 and estimated retention price based on gas at $6 per MMBTU after conversion is tabulated below:—

(Rs./PMT of urea)

Sl. No.	Name of the unit/group	Existing Concession price (on NPS II parameters)	Estimated Concession price after conversion (on NPS II parameters)
	Pre-1992 Naphtha		
1.	MCFL-Manglore	20915	10453
2	SFC, Kota	17571	10118
3	MFL, Chennai	22419	15216
4	SPIC, Tuticorin	22038	10968
5	ZACL, Goa	21210	12404
	FO/LSHS		
1	GNVFC	10979	9028
2	NFL, Nangal	16498	11782
3	NFL, Bhatinda	15637	10541
4	NFL, Panipat	15865	10643

Cases against Union Carbide

1395. SHRI S. K. KHABIR UDDIN AHMED: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of unresolved cases against the Union Carbide including the then Chairman, Warren Anderson;

(b) whether DOW Chemical, the parent company of Union Carbide which is responsible for killing more than 22,000 people in Bhopal Gas Tragedy in December, 1984, is being considered to get entry in India to do business unencumbered by the baggage of Bhopal; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI B.K. HANDIQUE): (a) The extradition request for extradition of accused Warren Anderson, the then Chairman, of Union Carbide Corporation, USA is still pending with Ministry of External Affairs/U.S. Authorities for execution. As informed by the CBI the prosecution evidence and evidence of accused persons has since been completed. The case is pending for argument on different applications filed by accused persons and the NGOs.

(b) and (c) In the Writ Petition No. 2802 of 2004 (Alok Pratap Singh *Vs.* Union of India and others) pending before the High Court of Madhya Pradesh, an